***THE GROUP SETTLER’S WIFE***

*The first version of this novella was commissioned by the tiny town of Northcliffe, Western Australia, as part of its collection for an Forest Arts Walk. This was a project to draw tourists to the area, where the timber industry was in decline. I loved learning about the history of Northcliffe and working with the various other artists.*

*After this story was finished, I just had to write a longer novel for my UK publisher, with the same background. It’s an iconic part of Western Australia’s history and the people who came out as group settlers were for the most part brave and hard-working. I admire them very much. I couldn’t have done what they did. That became my novel ‘Freedom’s Land’.*

*‘The Group Settler’s Wife’ has been published in several formats, including as a serial for an English women’s magazine. There are slight variations to each version, but the story is basically the same, and is as true to the early settlers’ lives as I could make it.*